The hon. Minister has said that a viable pricing has been given to manufacturers of Vitamin C. May I know the position from the Minister? What was the pricing before and what pricing has he given now? I would also like to know whether the private manufacturers have accepted the manufacture of Vitamin C. If so, from when will they manufacture it and when will it be made available to the manufacturers of formulations?

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN: Vitamin C is readily available. I have gone to CGHS and found it is available there.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: No. It is not available...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: ...in the market.

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN: Coming to the manufacture of Vitamin C, I would like to say that some Members of Parliament have represented to me. Earlier, about two months back the price of it was about Rs. 340 per kilogram.. Within a short time of two to three months, we have given two price revisions. Now it is available for Rs. 445 kilogram. The actual problem is that there are two manufacturers of Vitamin C today. They are producing it or giving it to some companies to produce Vitamin C. Vitamin C is not only used in the form of tablet, but it can also be used in different forms, such as Glucon-C. In the Glucose packets they add Vitamin-C and sell it. The people who are getting more margin in manufacturing Glucon and other products, they are changing this tablet form to other food products and so on. That is why the shortage is seen. Actually there is no shortage. If there is a shortage, as the hon. Members have suggested, we will definitely import the drug in bulk and see that something is done immediately.

Setting up of Joint Venture Projects abroad by Electronic Trade and Technology Development Corporation

*123. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation proposes to set up joint venture projects abroad and open offices in European Economic Community and Far East;

(b) if so, what are the details of these proposals; and

(c) what expenditure is likely to be involved in opening the offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Statement

(a) The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for 1992-93 signed between Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation Limited (ET&T), a public sector undertaking and the Department of Electronics *inter-alia* provides for promotion of international trade by establishing presence through offices, warehouses and liaisoning contacts in commercial centres like U.S.A. European Economic Community (EEc) and Far East countries for its own as well as other products and services.

(b) and (c) No specific proposals have been finalised so far.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: The Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation is one of the most inefficiently managed public sector undertaking; which I have seen. I am not saying this from knowledge derived from others, but it is from my own personal experience. They have been making television sets. Enamoured of the public sector, I bought one television set. From day one, it gave such a trouble that after some time I got desperate and re-

turned it to the Chairman, with a covering letter, as a gift to keep it and display it in his office. The Chairman did not even have the courtesy to telephone me and apologise. He wrote a reply saying that "there was nothing wrong in the TV, there must be a number of trees in your house, therefore", . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Will you please relate your agonoy to the question?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I am coming to that. It is relevant because I am explaining the way they function. With the same trees in my house, I am having a TV set manufactured by a private company. It is functioning very well. Afterwards they have installed another TV set, which is costlier, and they have not taken the dfference of cost also. This is a bribe to me. So far they have not sent the bill also.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Was it when you were a Minister?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: No. It is a recent case. This is one of the companies which has been included in the BIFR as a losing concern. It has been continuously losing. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what are the accumulated losses of this corporation? How can he expect this corporation to compete with the most advanced technology in the world? They have said that they want to open ET & T offices in U.S.A., Far-East and East European countries, where electronic goods are much cheaper and they have got a good market. How does ET & T propose to compete in the market? What is the marketing arrangement they have got? What is envisaged in the Memorandum of Understanding?

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Madam Deputy Chairman, firstly I would like to apologise to the hon. Minister for the happenings that took place with his own T. V. set, I thing it would be relevant to bring to his notice that the reason why there was a delay on the part of the company in not responding to him was that when he returned the T.V. set, they wanted to have it checked from all aspects. I would like to say what the system is.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He wants to know about the setting up of joint venture projects but not about spoiling of Mr. Upendra's T.V. set.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I don't want an answer about my T.V. set. I want to know, what are the accumulated losses of this company?

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Madam, if I may submit... (*Interruptions*) . . .

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: How does the Minster know that the hon. Member is going to ask a question about his own T.V. set?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is efficient.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: At least you must give credit to us that we have an idea of what might happen.

If I may submit, the hon. Member's anguish in one way is justified because when you buy a T.V. set and find ghost images, etc., you will not be happy with it. Finally, when you return the T.V. set to the original manufacturer . . .

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I do not want to know about my T.V. set. I want to know, what are the accumulated losses of this corporation?

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I am coming to that point. Madam, I wish to point out that we have had very good customer satisfaction about this T. V. set. In this particular case we felt that it would be proper to give an electronic tuner. That is the only change that we have

made in that T.V. set. We would have done the same thing in the case of other customers also. Therefore, there is no additional billing also. I hope that the Member is now satisfied.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Including the Deputy Chairman's T.V. set.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Definitely, if you have an E T & T Tl V set we would give very good customer service.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now please come to the question.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I would like to mention that E T & T deals not only with TlV. sets but also other electronic components. It also deals with import and export of goods not only manufactured by T&T but by other Indian companies also.

It has made a few losses in the past. But it has also made profits. One of the major reasons why it had suffered losses was it had to carry inventories, large inventories on basically computer equipment. ET&T used to service computers which were imported and at a particular stage, in 1989-90, this servicing was not only done as a monopoly by ET&T but now it has been decentralised and it is being done by other organisations. Some of this inventory has caused ET&T a tremendous interest burden. This interest burden has caused accumulated losses of about Rs. 7.55 crores. But I would like to point out that minus interest, if one looks at the figures, it comes to Rs. 1.67 crores last year as profit. We are expecting a profit of Rs. 2 crores this year. In fact, on the question of export that was asked by the hon. Member specifically, if I may point out to the hon. Member, our exports last year were Rs. 49 lakhs. In the last three months itself, we have had an export of nearly Rs. 59 lakhs. We are expecting to have an export performance of somewhere around Rs. 2 crores this year. This is out of one office only that ET&T has got in Los Angles in USA. It is not ET & T goods, it is India's electronic goods manufactured by other Indian companies which the E.T. & T. sells abroad. We find that there is a substantial, market, especially with regard to the black and white televisions which we are able to produce today at very viable prices abroad. It is called a third television abroad where it is used often in the kitchen or it is used by children in the developed countries. And, in developing countries, if I may submit, Madam Deputy Chairperson, in other places like... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam, we know that he is new to the Department. The House has also certain knowledge. He does not have to prove that he is new to the Department.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question No. 124. (*Interruptions*). It was a long answer, Mr. Upendra. I will go to the next question concerning your previous Ministry of I & B.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Madam, I want an answer for this. Is it not contrary to the policy which is now being pursued by the Government? Why should then all these exports be canalised through this public sector organisation, when you are allowing all the companies to export directly, to deal directly and negotiate directly? Why should you continue to canalise through this organisation? That is one point. The other point is, they had offices in Algeria and the U.S.A. What is the amount of business they have transacted through these two offices so far?

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Madam Deputy Chairman, the offices in Algeria, etc were meant for specific projects and they have been very successfully completed and there is no problem with regard to them. With regard to the office at Los Angeles, the specific point is that

during the year 1991-92 the total sales were 6,75,000 US dollars, generating a net foreign exchange surplus of 54,000 US dollars. With regard to Algeria or Moscow or the other Warsaw Pact countries, these are specific projects which were completed. If he wants the figures on exactly how much the contribution of E.T. & T. was, I shall send them to him.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question No. 124.

हिमाचल प्रदेश में निम्न शक्ति के ट्रांसमिशन टावरों का निर्माण

*124. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह :** क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) हिमाचल प्रदेश में सुंदर नगर, आहजू तथा पालमपुर में निम्न शक्ति के ट्रांसमिशन टावरों के निर्माण के संबंध में नवीनतम स्थिति क्या है;

(ख) क्या सरकार को इस बात की भी जानकारी है कि हिमाचल प्रदेश की कठिन भौगोलिक स्थिति के कारण वहां अभी तक केवल 58 प्रतिशत जनता ही दूरदर्शन कार्यक्रम देख पाती है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो सरकार 1992-93 के दौरान ऐसी कौन-कौन सी योजनाएं/कार्यक्रम आरम्भ करने का विचार रखती है जिनसे राज्य की शेष जनता भी दूरदर्शन के कार्यक्रम देख सके?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (कुमारी गिरिजा व्यास) : (क) से (ग) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा जाता है।

विवरण

(क) सुन्दरनगर में प्रस्तावित अल्प शक्ति टी.वी. ट्रांसमीटर के लिए स्थल तथा आहजू फोटहू में अति अल्प शक्ति टी.वी. ट्रांसमीटर के लिए किराए की इमारत तय कर ली गई है और पालमपुर में अति अल्प शक्ति टी.वी. ट्रांसमीटर के लिए उपयुक्त स्थल का चयन करने के लिए कार्रवाई शुरू कर दी गई है। ट्रांसमीटरों तथा सहायक उपकरणों की आपूर्ति के लिए भी निर्माताओं को आर्डर दे दिए गए है।

(ख) जी, हां।

(ग) भाग (क) के उत्तर में उल्लिखित ट्रांसमीटरों के अलावा जहां शिमला के मौजूदा अल्प शक्ति (100 वाट) टी.वी. ट्रांसमीटर के स्थान पर उच्च शक्ति (1 कि. वा.) टी. वी. ट्रांसमीटर लगाने का काम अंतिम चरण में है, जहां धर्मशाला के मौजूदा अल्प शक्ति (100 वाट) टी.वी. ट्रांसमीटर के स्थान पर उच्च शक्ति (10 कि.वा.) टी.वी. ट्रांसमीटर लगाने का काम पर्याप्त साधनों की उपलब्धता तथा परस्पर प्राथमिकताओं पर निर्भर करता है।

श्री **महेश्वर सिंह** महोदया, जो सूचना सभा पटल पर रखी गई है, उसे मैंने देखा है। दो वर्ष पूर्व भी मैंने इसी संदर्भ में लोक सभा में एक प्रश्न पूछा था। तब भी मंत्री महोदय का यही उत्तर था कि हिमाचल प्रदेश में 58.7 प्रतिशत एरिया कवर्ड है और आज दो वर्ष के बाद भी स्थिति वहीं की वहीं है। एक प्रतिशत और नया क्षेत्र नहीं जोड़ा जा सका है।

तो मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदया से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि हिमाचल प्रदेश और इसके अतिरिक्त जितने और भी पहाड़ी प्रांत हैं, क्या इनके लिए वर्षशः कोई एक लक्ष्य सरकार ने तय किया है कि इतना-इतना एरिया हर वर्ष नया कवर किया जाएगा?

जो सूचना सभा पटल पर रखी गई उसके अन्तर्गत मैं यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि पालमपुर, शिमला, धर्मशाला सुंदरनगर और आहजू में जो कार्य चल रहा है, चाहे वह तो-पावर ट्रांसमीटर का है, चाहे हाई पावर ट्रांसमीटर का है, वह कब तक पूरा हो जाएगा?